

of Nebraska communities, including Lincoln, rushed forward to grab the first round of grants and cash in on the chance to add people to their police forces. President Clinton, sensing that 100,00 is still a magic and marvelously symbolic number, has chosen to make it the centerpiece of his first veto threat. Tinker with that portion of the crime bill, he is warning Republicans who are all too anxious to do just that, and bipartisan-ship will go by the boards.

The Journal is certainly interested to hear the news that the President is—apparently—prepared to make one of his few firm stands. But the Journal is not interested in seeing him issue a veto for the sake of a single number—even a six-figure number.

In this case, it is the Republicans who have the better plan. They want to let states and individual communities decide how to take a bite out of crime. They want to distribute money and leave the decision at the local level as to whether it will be spent directly on more police officers or on some other crime efforts that are regarded as more effective.

It make sense for a variety of reasons, including flexibility. In a metropolitan setting, the oft-maligned idea of midnight basketball might actually offer more help in crime prevention. In cities like Lincoln, where community policing is much in vogue, it might make more sense to spend it on a satellite police station or some need that is closely aligned with community policing.

It is also important to note that the Federal commitment to putting more police on the street does not extend to training or equipment and that it is only good for three years. After that, as it appears now, grant recipients would be left to stand the entire cost of however many personnel they hire.

The second editorial is from the February 17, 1995, Omaha World Herald.

#### NO FALSE PROMISES IN HOUSE CRIME PLAN

President Clinton has been in a huff over congressional efforts to redesign the crime bill he signed into law in 1994. The president says he will veto any attempt to dismantle a program that promised to put 100,000 police officers on the streets.

However, Clinton's claim that the \$8.8 billion allocated by Congress for that purpose would actually finance that many officers has always been suspect. City officials in Omaha and a number of other places soon discovered that Congress had attached so many strings to the money that applying for it was in some cases impractical.

For one thing, cities can't add even one officer unless they put up their own money first—25 percent of the total. The federal funding runs out after five years. Moreover, law enforcement experts said the \$8.8 billion wouldn't come close to covering the cost of hiring, training and equipping 100,000 officers without forcing communities to come up with still more of their own money. By some accounts, the federal money would pay for closer to 20,000 new officers.

The House has now voted to cancel \$7.5 billion in unspent funds for the police buildup. Also canceled would be \$3.9 billion in unspent funds for social programs that the previous Congress had included under the heading of "crime prevention." Instead, the House proposes \$10 billion in block grants to the states. States and cities could design their own anti-crime programs.

Clinton has been adamant about preserving the 100,000-officer program. But the House idea is better. It makes no false promises. And it takes government another step away from the idea that Big Brother in Washington knows more about fighting crime than the mayors and police chiefs who are engaged in that fight every day.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 23, 1995*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, due to unavoidable travel delays I missed two votes taken Tuesday, February 20, 1995.

Had I been present I would have made the following votes:

First, yea on the previous question on Rule H.R. 831.

Second, yea on the rule on H.R. 831.

#### PROCLAMATION CONGRATULATING MURPHY'S FURNITURE AND CARPET

### HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 23, 1995*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues:

Whereas, Murphy's Furniture & Carpet celebrate its 70th anniversary, founded in 1925 by Theodore T. Murphy; and,

Whereas, the Murphy's Furniture & Carpet is one of Noble County's oldest and most progressive businesses and one of its valued institutions in the Caldwell community; and,

Whereas, this establishment has achieved a praiseworthy record of service as evidenced by its many satisfied customers; and,

Whereas, through enterprises such as Murphy's our country continues to grow and prosper; and,

Whereas, the unwavering dedication to the founder, Theodore T. Murphy and owners Clair J. Murphy and J. Murphy, the employees of Murphy's have been a vital factor in the success of the business, and they are all well deserving of the respect of the community; and,

Whereas, the city of Caldwell and all the surrounding areas of Ohio, with a real sense of pleasure commend Murphy Furniture & Carpet as an outstanding business and join in the celebration of their 70 year anniversary this twenty-third day of February in the year one thousand nine hundred ninety-five.

#### NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

### HON. ROBERT S. WALKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 23, 1995*

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Engineers Week. Celebrated annually since 1951, National Engineers Week is intended to raise awareness of the many contributions engineers make to our society.

There are more than 1.8 million engineers in the United States making it the Nation's second largest profession. From building microchips to constructing skyscrapers, engineers contribute a great deal to the productivity of the United States and it is only fitting that we designate this week in their honor.

Many events are planned for this week, including the finals of the National Engineers Week Future City Competition. The competi-

tion features seventh and eighth grade students presenting their computer-designed scale models of 21st century cities.

Each year National Engineers Week coincides with the celebration of Washington's birthday. As a surveyor, Washington is considered the Nation's First Engineer.

As chairman of the House Science Committee, I maintain a great interest in engineering. In every field, in every profession, engineers are an instrumental part of American research and development.

Among my colleagues in the House several are engineers. They include: Representative ROSCOE G. BARTLETT, MD; Representative JOE BARTON, TX; Representative MICHAEL BILIRAKIS, FL; Representative BOB FILNER, CA; Representative JOHN N. HOSTETTLER, IN; Representative JAY KIM, CA; Representative LEWIS F. PAYNE, VA; Representative JOE SKEEN, NM; and the ranking minority member of the Science Committee, Representative GEORGE E. BROWN, JR., CA.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues and the American people in paying tribute to the many and varied contributions which engineers have made to this country.

#### A TRIBUTE TO COMDR. ROY J. BALACONIS

### HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 23, 1995*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like the House of Representatives to take a moment to commend one of the finest officers in the U.S. Navy. He is Comdr. Roy J. Balaconis, of the U.S.S. *Mitscher*, one of the Navy's newest and finest ships, an Aegis Destroyer.

To become the Commander of an Aegis Destroyer, which is the Rolls Royce of the fleet, one must be a tremendous officer. Commander Balaconis certainly fits the bill. He served under the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the gulf war, specifically because of his knowledge of the Navy's Tomahawk missile. He had the foresight to develop a thesis which utilized the Tomahawk missile in a scenario where it supported and sustained a surface and air confrontation in the Middle East during the time of crisis \* \* \* and this was some 2 years before Operation Desert Storm/Shield. His thesis basically became the manual for Tomahawk use during the gulf war.

Mr. Speaker, now Commander Balaconis has his own ship, and he is continuing to utilize his unique leadership skills. A member of my staff recently took a tour of his ship, and Commander Balaconis repeatedly stopped to talk to every member of his crew with whom they came into contact. Additionally, there were several members of his crew's families on board, and Commander Balaconis also stopped to speak with each of them, and the concern he showed was genuine. Commander Balaconis always referred to his crew and their families as part of the *Mitscher* family.

Mr. Speaker, the men on his ship feel his enthusiasm and share in his desire to succeed. The high morale is evident in every

member of his crew, both officers and enlisted. Although being a Commander alone warrants respect, his men respect him for more than that. They respect him because of who he is.

Mr. Speaker, Comdr. Roy Balaconis is a truly dynamic leader, and is definitely an asset to the U.S. Navy and our country. His accomplishments are certainly deserving of our recognition and praise.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 22, 1995*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it has been said that the 1995 National Black History theme represents a milestone in the life of black Americans. It causes us to reflect on the visions of three men who were repressed by slavery, disillusioned by the Bill of Rights, and despite these setbacks—championed the cause for freedom through vigilant and aggressive action.

These three individuals, Frederick Douglas, W.E.B. DuBois, and Booker T. Washington, were prolific scholars and great leaders.

Their determination to change the course of history for black Americans, planted the seeds of progress that later blossomed into the political and economic freedom that we continue to cultivate. The course of history for black Americans was greatly influenced by these three giants, whose visions have seen a nation through 300 years of conflict.

As we celebrate Black History Month, it is important to remember these men \* \* \* who have been termed our first "civil rights generals" in a war that seems to never end.

Mr. Speaker, I want to use my time today to pay tribute to a group of Americans who have given their lives in wars of a different kind: Black Americans who have proudly served their country in the military.

It is not news that more than 25 percent of the young men and women who served our country in the Persian Gulf were black. Were it not for the more than 100,000 thousand black soldiers, sailors, and airmen, former President Bush probably could not have launched the war to drive Saddam Hussein from Kuwait.

Nor is it news, Mr. Speaker, that a disproportionate number of black Americans served in Vietnam. But it is important to remember that black Americans have served in every battle in which this country was ever engaged.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, we can go all the way back to the American Revolution, the first war in our country's history. In the most serious clash between the Americans and the British—the Boston Massacre of 1770—one of the five colonists who fell in action was a runaway slave, Crispus Attucks.

Gen. Andrew Jackson, this country's seventh President, heaped the greatest praise upon the thousands of black soldiers who played a decisive role in the War of 1812.

In the Civil War—this country's bloodiest battle—the question for blacks was this: Would they remain loyal to their immediate oppressors who owned them outright, or would they sacrifice their very lives for the freedom of their race and their country?

The answer was simple. Nearly 200,000 black combat troops fought in the Union Army, and one in every four men in the Union Navy was black.

In this country's First World War, the most famous of the eight Black regiments was unquestionably the "Fighting 369th." In 1918, this unit went into action and remained on the front lines for 191 consecutive days—"Without losing a trench, retreating an inch, or surrendering a prisoner."

Upon their triumphant return to this country, Dr. W.E.B. DuBois served notice on America that returning black servicemen meant to realize full equality under the law as first-class citizens. He said:

We stand again to look America squarely in the face. It lynches, It disenfranchises, It insults us.—we return fighting. Make way for democracy. We saved it in France, and we will save it in the U.S.A.

On the infamous morning of December 7, 1941, when Japanese fighters flew over Pearl Harbor and rained a hail of bombs and bullets on the slumbering U.S. Naval Base, Dorie Miller, a black messman, was going about his duties collecting the laundry, when the sounds of battle sirens and exploding shells rent the air.

Miller rushed up on deck, and instantly hauled his wounded captain to safety. Moments later, he sprung into action behind an anti-aircraft gun he had never been trained to operate.

Firing calmly and accurately, he brought down four zero fighter planes before the cry to abandon ship was heeded by all survivors. On May 7, 1942, this great seaman was cited for bravery by Fleet Adm. Chester Nimitz, who decorated him with a Silver Star, and so acknowledged the Nation's debt to a black man of "extraordinary courage."

Mr. Speaker, as a child I can remember assisting my father in his plans to welcome home Dorie Miller, a fellow Texan. As a Member of congress, I have introduced legislation to pay the appropriate tribute to this great American, who fought so nobly for his country, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The experience of settling America, and the burden of defending it, have been shared by many groups of people. As one historian has noted—blacks, too, have built this Nation, forged its destiny in peace, and defended it in war. Black men and women began serving America long before the Nation had come into being, and have fought long and honorably in every major American conflict since.

America is free because, as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Though they have often been reduced to a 'fifty percent citizen' on American soil, black soldiers have always been one hundred percent citizens in warfare."

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we recognize and honor the vast contributions to this Nation's military history, and this country's freedom, by black men and women who have fought and died for a better world.

## AMADOR HIGH SCHOOL RECOGNITION

### HON. BILL BAKER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 23, 1995*

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker it is with great pleasure that I commend an outstanding group of young people from Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton, CA, who have, for the second year in a row, won the California championship in the State's annual "Bill of Rights" competition.

This superb program, the full title of which is "We the People . . . the Citizen and the Constitution," encourages debate and speech competition among high school students as they discuss the meaning of the Constitution for our day. The competition, established by the U.S. Congress and the Department of Education, is a dynamic way of encouraging young men and women to consider the ongoing importance of the Constitution to our daily lives.

The Amador Valley team, ably coached by civics teacher Skip Mohatt, is now raising funds to come to the national championship competition in here in Washington, April 29 through May 2. Having placed third in last year's national contest, they are eager to come back and compete again.

These teenagers are discovering in an exciting way how our amazing Constitution continues to enable us to live as a free people. They deserve high praise for their commitment to academic excellence, energetic scholarship, and true intellectual curiosity. I am pleased to commend them in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

## HONORING MR. ROBERT L. CALLAHAN

### HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 23, 1995*

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a fellow citizen of the State of Georgia and a great American, Mr. Robert L. Callahan, Jr. Over nearly 35 years of legal practice in the field of administrative law, Mr. Callahan has made tremendous and far-reaching contributions to the development of administrative law in general, as well as to the development of food and drug law in particular. He has been a tireless worker, without fanfare or public recognition, in support of common sense and fair play in the practice of law. Mr. Callahan's efforts have helped to shape much of a U.S. system of food law and regulation that is generally taken for granted but which literally affects every American daily.

It is because of these accomplishments that I ask my colleagues to join me today in this commendation of Mr. Robert L. Callahan, Jr.